RESTING • RENEWED • RESPONDING

RIVERWOOD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

WELCOME TO RIVERWOOD

We are glad you are here! Finding a church home can be a daunting process, so we want to help you by telling you who we are up front. We are first and foremost a people **resting** in God's grace offered to us in the gospel of Jesus Christ, being progressively **renewed** by the Holy Spirit, and **responding** in faith, repentance, and obedience.

We are also a reformed, confessional, and apostolic church. That means that we trace our roots back through the Protestant Reformation, the historic confessions, catechisms, and creeds of the church, all the way back to the teachings of the apostles. In all of this, our ultimate authority is God's word.

No matter where you are in your understanding of the Christian faith, we hope you find Riverwood to be a place where you can build relationships, ask questions, and grow in your knowledge of Jesus.

We would love to connect with you today before you leave! You can help us with that by scanning the QR code on the back page of this bulletin and filling out the linked *Information Connection* page. Our elders will also be in the foyer after the service to meet you and answer any questions you may have.

Now receive this welcome into worship:

"To all who are weary and need rest; to all who mourn and need comfort; to all who fail and need forgiveness; to all who struggle and need strength; to all who sin and need a savior: this church opens wide her doors in the name of Jesus, the friend of sinners."

November 8, 2026	10:30 Worship Service

Pastor, *Rev. Jeff Pate*
Assisting Elder, *John Kim*
Piano, *Joann Williams*

WELCOME
Please program all communication devices to be in silent mode. Thank you.

PRELUDE

PRAISE

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from Psalm 95*

Pastor: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
All: **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;**
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
Pastor: Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
All: **For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,**
and the sheep of his hand.
Pastor: Come, let us worship.

HYMN: 302 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: *Deuteronomy 8:11-17*

11 "Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, **12** lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, **13** and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, **14** then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, **15** who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, **16** who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. **17** Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.'"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN:

Eternal God, you are altogether holy and the earth is filled with your glory. You have created all things and in you all things hold together. You have given us physical life and have provided for our needs and much more. We confess that we have been prideful because of the blessings you have given us. Please forgive us when we forget that all we have is from your gracious hand. Lord Jesus, you came to secure our salvation through your life, death, and resurrection. After you ascended to Father you sent the Holy Spirit to give us faith to believe and to bear fruit in our lives. Our spiritual life and the blessings that accompany it are all undeserved gifts from you. Have mercy on us for imagining that our spiritual wealth is a product of our strength or our deeds. We confess that our hope is in your righteousness, your power, your mercy, your grace, and your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE & PEACE OF GOD: *from Micah 7*

Pastor: Lift your heads and be reminded of our God who saves! The prophet Micah declared, "Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea." By God's grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, your sins have been forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

HYMN: "It Was Finished upon that Cross"

How I love the voice of Jesus, on the Cross of Calvary.
He declares His work is finished; He has spoken this hope to me.
Though the sun had ceased its shining, though the war appeared as lost,
Christ had triumphed over evil. It was finished upon that Cross.

Now the curse it has been broken; Jesus paid the price for me.
Full the pardon He has offered. Great the welcome that I receive.
Boldly I approach my Father, clothed in Jesus' righteousness.
There is no more guilt to carry. It was finished upon that Cross.

Death was once my great opponent. Fear once had a hold on me.
But the Son who died to save us, rose that we would be free indeed.

Death was once my great opponent. Fear once had a hold on me.
But the Son who died to save us, rose that we would be free indeed.
Yes, He rose that we would be free indeed.

Free from every plan of darkness, free to live and free to love.
Death is dead and Christ is risen. It was finished upon that Cross.

Onward to eternal glory to my Saviour and my God
I rejoice in Jesus' victory. It was finished upon that Cross! (x3)

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Nigel Hendroff
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OFFERTORY PRAYER & OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The Heidelberg Catechism*, Q & A 53

Leader: What do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit?
All: **First, he is, together with the Father and the Son, true and eternal God. Second, he is also given to me, to make me by true faith share in Christ and all his benefits, to comfort me, and to remain with me forever.**

RESPONSE: "Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN: 330 "Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness"

SCRIPTURE: *John 16:16-24*

16 "A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me." **17** So some of his disciples said to one another, "What is this that he says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'; and, 'because I am going to the Father'?" **18** So they were saying, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about." **19** Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? **20** Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. **21** When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. **22** So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. **23** In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. **24** Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

Pastor: The grass withers, the flower fades,
All: **but the Word of our God will stand forever.**

SERMON: "When Sorrow Turned to Joy" *Rev. Jeff Pate*

HYMN: 420 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

RESPONSIVE READING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
All: We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.
Pastor: The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.
All: The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.
Pastor: Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord. The gifts of God for the people of God.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN: 310 "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSING HYMN: #263 "Lift High the Cross"

Refrain:
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Thy kingdom come, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace. (Refrain)

November 8, 2026	5:00 Worship Service

CALL TO WORSHIP: *from John 4*

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman, "The hour is coming, and is now here,
when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth,
for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.
God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: 70 "With Glory Clad, with Strength Arrayed"

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 145, page 838

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prayer of Praise for God's Character
Prayer of Praise for God's Works
Prayer of Petition for God's People
Prayer of Thanksgiving for God's Provision

HYMN: 128 "God Moves in a Mysterious Way"

READING OF SCRIPTURE *Ruth 1*

SERMON "Commitment to the God of the Covenant"

HYMN: "He Will Hold Me Fast"

CLOSING PRAYER & BENEDICTION

Wednesday Evening Meal and Studies

Our Wednesday evenings at Riverwood provide a great opportunity to grow in Christian fellowship and knowledge of God's Word. There is a meal provided for anyone who would like to come at 5:30pm (please see your email on Friday to RSVP for dinner). Following the meal, there are discipleship opportunities through Youth Group, a Ladies' Bible Study, a Men's study, Children's Catechism, and a co-ed Pier Group. Please pray that God will bless our efforts to equip the saints and grow in Christian community.

Baby Shower

You're invited to a baby shower honoring Heather Marsh this Saturday, November 14 at 10:30am upstairs in the education building. Let's shower Heather with love and diapers (Pampers preferred)!

We Give Thanks Luncheon

After church next Sunday, November 15, plan to join your Riverwood family for our annual We Give Thanks meal. Please bring a dish to share if you are able.

80th Birthday Party for Bob Prince

Please join us for an 80th birthday celebration honoring Bob Prince on Saturday, November 21 from 2:00-4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. No gifts please! Your time with us is a perfect gift.

Prison Ministry: Hygiene Kits

We are continuing our Hygiene Kit ministry to the men at Bibb Correctional Facility for Christmas. Last year, we provided kits for 720 men and prayerfully would like to be able to do that again this year. Items needed are: full size stick deodorant, bar soap, white washcloths, white crew socks (may have gray heel/toe but no other markings), individually-wrapped toothbrushes, toothpaste (4 oz or larger). Also, a monetary donation can be made with "Hygiene Kit" in the memo line. A basket is in the narthex for donated items. The deadline for collection is Nov. 13 with a packing party at Brent Presbyterian Church on Nov. 20.

Pier Groups

We believe an important component of Christian discipleship is regular time in the word and prayer with fellow believers. One way we seek to provide opportunities for that is through small groups that we refer to as Pier Groups. There are three Pier Groups currently meeting:

- Martins on Mondays in the Sheppards' home (1513 Heritage Dr, 35406) @ noon. For more info contact Gene at (205) 614-2781.
- Pates on Wednesdays at Riverwood @ 6:30 pm. You can reach out to Jeff at (205) 771-0170.
- Kims (5010 Lakehurst Drive, 35473) on Fridays at their home @ 6:30 pm. John can be reached at (443) 722-1727.

Nursery Schedule

November 8: Lorrie Pate & Warren Pate
November 15: Janalie Graham & Lilly Henry

Riverwood Church Officers

Elders:
John Kim
Gene Martin
Jeff Pate
Dusty Sheppard

Elders Emeritus:
Bob Prince
Robert Sheppard

Deacons:
Tommy Coleman
Steven Crawford
Bruce DeHaan
Ed Kidder
Steve Patridge
Marvin Skelton

Financials through October

Operating Income:	$308,423.20
Operating Expense:	$330,534.11
Net Income:	($22,110.91)
Designated gifts:	$74,232.30
Building loan balance:	$180,698.78

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